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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Military Information: Soviet Troops in North Korea

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SUPPLEMENT

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Note: Though the information contained herein is general and miscellaneous in nature, it may serve as confirmation of previous reports.)

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1. There has been a large reduction of Soviet troop strength throughout northwest Korea in the area between Pyongyang (Maijo) (125-44, 39-01), and Simiye (Shingishu) (124-24, 40-06) and it is estimated that the number of Soviet troops now in the area is less than one-third of that in December 1946. According to public opinion in the cities of Wonsan (Genzan) (127-26, 39-10), Chongjin (Seishin) (129-49, 41-46) and Naman (Nanan) (129-41, 41-42), Soviet troop strength has been increased in these areas recently. One of the main topics of conversation among the people is the possible withdrawal of Soviet troops. Only in Wonsan, Chongjin, and Naman do the people believe that Soviet troops will not be withdrawn in the near future. The greatest numbers of Soviet troops are in the Chongjin, Naman and Wonsan areas in that order.

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A member of the Peace Preservation Corps states that there are 50,000 Soviet troops in Naman and source also believes that there are at least that many there. Lesser numbers of Soviet troops are in Hamhung (Manku) (127-32, 39-54) and still less in Pyongyang.

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2. Soviet Troops in Wonsan

- a. At Wonsan barbed wire barriers are encountered 400-500 meters from the coast, extending a considerable distance around the coast and enclosing the entire port area. Guards, both Soviet and Korean, are stationed every 100-150 feet along this barrier.
- b. A special pass is necessary to enter the port area, but even with the pass Korean laborers are restricted from some of the area. The Soviets formerly employed Koreans to load and unload the ships, but this type of work is now done by Soviets. The port of Wonsan and part of the surrounding sea area is restricted to fishing boats. There are rumors among the merchants that the Soviets intend to retain the city for a Soviet port.

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3. Soviet Troops in Naman

- a. There are many concrete fortifications (pillboxes) on the mountains around the city and particularly on the mountain east of the railway station.

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- b. Over 30 light tanks and a large number of Soviet troops are concentrated at a school building approximately 30 minutes walk north from the railway station.
- c. There are a large number of Soviet Wacs in the city, many of whom are officers.
- d. According to public opinion, there is a daily increase in the number of Soviet troops in the city.
- e. Training and rifle practice is carried on in the suburbs.

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Soviet Troops in Chongjin

- a. In addition to the regular Soviet ground troops, large numbers of Soviet air-force troops, Soviet Wacs and Soviet naval personnel are seen in Chongjin.
- b. Many airplanes fly over the city, some marked with a red star on the underside of their wings, some with the Korean national flag.
- c. Soviet and Korean guards are stationed at the railway station. One of their duties consists of guarding huge piles of rice which are placed inside barbed wire barriers. These piles are approximately 60 yards long, 30 yards wide and 10 feet high.
- d. The port area, 500-600 meters from the harbor, is restricted. Two Soviet guards are stationed every 100 meters around the port. Korean laborers work inside the harbor area.

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5. Soviet Troops in Kanni (Chonni?) (125-38, 39-10)

There are more than 20 two and one-half ton trucks of American make, five small tanks, several artillery pieces mounted on rubber tires, and about 150 Soviet troops in Kanni. This is the only Soviet unit of any appreciable size between Chongju (Teishu) (125-12, 39-42) and Pyongyang.

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6. Sale of Articles by Soviet Troops

According to the merchants in the market areas of the above-mentioned cities, Soviet troops often dispose of articles through the local merchants. Articles most frequently sold are pens, pencils, watches and Russian bread.

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